

The scholar Sima Qian (soo MAH chen) decided to solve the problem. He spent his life writing a history of China from mythical times to the emperor Wudi. His work, called *Historical Records*, is a major source of our information about ancient China. Sima described his work:

“I wish to examine all that encircles heaven and man.
I want to probe the changes of the past and present.”

Chinese Achievements

Achievements of Ancient China

Technology	Medicine	The Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper made from wood pulp • Iron plow for breaking up soil • Rudder—a device used to steer ships • Wheelbarrow • Compass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acupuncture—treatment of disease using needles • Anesthetics—substances that put patients to sleep for surgery • Herbal remedies—discovery of plants useful as medicines • Circulatory system—discovery that blood travels through the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silk weaving • Jade carving • Bronze working • Temples and palaces • Poetry and history

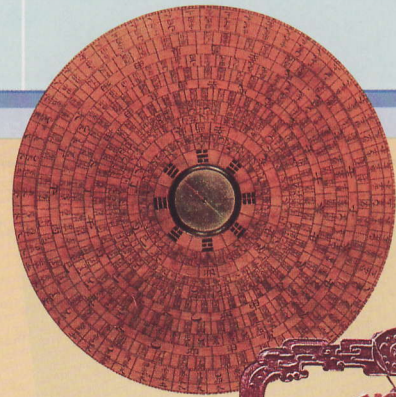
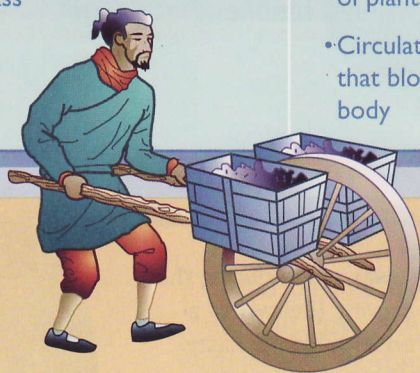


Chart Study This chart shows just a few of the achievements of the ancient Chinese. **Critical Thinking** Which two Chinese inventions were helpful for farmers?

This wheelbarrow allowed one worker to move loads once carried by two. A mixture of chopped plants, water, and other materials was dried on mesh to form sheets of paper. Over 3,000 years ago, the Chinese learned to carve beautiful objects from jade like this ax blade. The Chinese made the first magnetic compasses. Because a compass needle always points north and south, Chinese sailors referred to compasses as “south-pointing fish.”

